
Factors that Impact Collaboration

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Collaboration across Distances

Our Previous Studies

Multiple contexts



Different
research methods

- Design & evaluation of new technology to support collaboration
- Design & evaluation of video-conference research meetings, collaboration training, center policies & practices
- Collaboration among research intensive universities & historically black universities
- Collaboration in military command & control

Launching Collaborations

- Significant barriers {
- Nature of disciplines & departments
 - National & international policies
 - Economic policies
 - Resources & expertise needed
 - Social networks & personal factors

“Physicists are kind of peculiar. They are like the snottiest people because they think that only physics is what’s worth doing...If I [as a physicist] stoop to working with biologists and other scientists, then somehow I’m corrupting their environments.”

“There’s a territorialism that has worked its way into everything”

Overcoming Barriers

- Research vision & goals
- Leadership
- Recognition of contextual differences & needs
- Adaptive collective use of ICT
- Agreement on IP & legal issues early on
- Time
- Continuous improvement assessment

“They just don’t know what it’s like here.”

*“Interdisciplinary collaboration is incredibly time-consuming.
It’s much harder to organize.”*

Increasing Organizational Acceptance

- Traditional measures of success
 - Has TD collaboration met or exceeded expectations?
 - E.g., citation analysis
- New measures of success
- Share success stories broadly
- Formal & informal external agency support
 - Important for those participants who are fewer in number, have lower status, etc.

To Build a Foundation for Collaboration

Institutions

- Credit all participants in inter-department research
- Eliminate additional overhead charges for inter-institutional collaboration
- Mechanisms to reward joint supervision of interdisciplinary master's & PhD thesis
- Recognition of contributions to other disciplines

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